

Message Text

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R 020100Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS STATE 050162

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL
SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: DAKAR 0286, 0798, 1085

1. SMITHSONIAN CONFIRMS 1976 FESTIVAL PROCEEDING AS SCHEDULED, JUNE 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5. 42 FOREIGN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING. 21 ACCEPT AND WILL PAY INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE FOR THEIR PARTICIPANTS. 3 ACCEPT ON UNDERSTANDING SMITHSONIAN COVERS AIRFARE. 8 WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT THOUGH HAVE NOT FULLY BUDGETED AIRFARE YET. 9 (INCLUDING SENEGAL) WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT THOUGH DETAILS OTHER THAN FINANCIAL REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED. 1 COUNTRY DECLINED.

2. AFRICAN DIASPORA ADVISORY GROUP OF FOLKLORISTS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND ETHNOMUSICOLOGISTS HAVE CAREFULLY DESIG4ED PROGRAM IN SIX TWO-WEEK SEGMENTS, PAIRING A PARTICULAR AFRICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRY WITH ELEMENTS OF U.S. BLACK CULTURE TO DEMONSTRATE TRI-CONTINENTAL
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FAMILY OF CULTURE. EACH SEGMENT PRESENTS TYPES OF DANCE,

MUSIC AND CRAFT EXPRESSION CELEBRATING THE RICHNESS
OF BLACK CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN LIFE WITH ROOTS
AND ORIGINS IN AFRICA AND LINKS IN LATIN AMERICA AND

CARIBBEAN. SENEGAL WAS ONE OF SIX AFRICAN NATIONS
INVITED, WITH OFFER OF AIRFARE COSTS BEING COVERED BY
SMITHSONIAN, BECAUSE OF ITS PARTICULAR CULTURAL DIVERSITY,
PURITY, AND LINKS TO PARTICULAR FACETS OF BLACK
EXPRESSION IN U.S. SMITHSONIAN SUGGESTS RECENT USIS
FILM "FESTIVAL OF HERITAGE" MAY CONVINCE POST AND GOS OF
VALIDITY OF DIASPORA PROGRAM.

3. REFTEL 0286, JANUARY 15, SAYS FRANKLIN REPORTS
EXPECTED BY USIS WITHIN WEEK. EXPEDITING WOULD BE
APPRECIATED.

4. REFTEL 0798, FEBRUARY 10, SAYS GOS ACCEPTANCE EXPECTED
WITHIN WEEK. SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE USIS OR
EMBASSY LENDING THEIR WEIGHT TO FRANKLIN'S REQUEST
FOR ACCEPTANCE FROM MINISTRY OF CULTURE.

5. THIS MESSAGE CONCURRED IN BY DEPARTMENT. INGERSOLL

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